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# CIA covert military aid in Costa Rica disclosed

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WASHINGTON — The CIA, through a covert headquarters operation in the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica, is financing a Panamanian company that is supplying arms and ammunition to the anti-Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance in Costa Rica commanded by dissident Sandinista hero Eden Pastora.

"Let's not say that we are directly involved. But we make sure that Pastora and his men get the weapons they need," a U.S. diplomat who has helped carry out the covert CIA operation disclosed today.

Pastora, who until 1981 served as the Sandinistas' deputy defense minister, has denied he gets CIA help.

The new disclosures came as President Reagan met Monday with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Gutierrez and as other intelligence sources confirmed that the CIA had urged all U.S.-backed rebels to step up their attacks on Nicaragua to show a jittery Congress that they are a good investment.

Costa Rica officially claims neutrality in the Nicaraguan struggle although it closes one eye on Pastora's use of the country as a supply base for carrying out guerrilla training in the sparsely populated southeast corner

of Nicaragua that adjoins Costa Rica.

Last November Congress approved \$24 million for the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force and other insurgent groups but that money is almost gone. Congress is expected to provide another \$21 million in aid to the contras despite a badly botched administration effort last week.

The State Department attempted to attach a request for the additional funds to a non-controversial spending bill to provide fuel for underprivileged Americans, causing a bitter backlash that resulted in a 15-14 vote against the administration request in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Panamanian company, which was not identified, is said to have purchased a number of aircraft from Investair, an apparent CIA front that operates out of fourth-floor offices in a McLean, Va., office building less than a mile from the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters.

Edgar L. Mitchell, the managing director of Investair, previously was disclosed to have been a part owner of Intermountain Aviation Inc., which was identified in a 1976 Senate intelligence committee report as one of the CIA's most important contractors. Intermountain Aviation was dissolved in 1975.